

***Alca antiqua* (Marsh, 1870), an invalid combination for a fossil auk (Alcidae)**

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The most abundant fossil bird in the early Pliocene deposits of the Yorktown Formation in North Carolina is an auk originally described by Marsh (1870) as *Catarractes antiquus*. *Catarractes* is a variant spelling of a generic name that was synonymised with *Uria* Brisson (1760), which is now used for the living murre. Olson & Rasmussen (2001: 273) recognised that the affinities of the fossil auk lay with those of the genus *Alca* Linnaeus (1758), so they created the new combination *Alca antiqua* (Marsh, 1870). This, however, is a secondary homonym preoccupied by *Alca antiqua* Gmelin (1789), the basionym for the extant Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus*, and therefore is unavailable for the fossil species. The next available name is *Australca grandis* Brodkorb (1955). Olson & Rasmussen (2001) synonymised *Australca* Brodkorb (1955) with *Alca* Linnaeus (1758). Therefore, the fossil species should now be known as:

***Alca grandis* (Brodkorb, 1955), new combination**

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